

# Wind farm projects begin this year

By *RENA DELBRIDGE*

*Star-Tribune correspondent* – Feb 21, 2008

The size of PacifiCorp's wind farm project at Glenrock has steadily increased.

A few months after the initial announcement of a 66-turbine, 99-megawatt wind farm at the site of the old Glenrock Coal Mine, PacifiCorp added a mirror project, dubbed the Rolling Hills wind farm.

Now, the utility wants to incorporate another 26 turbines to the project, with plans to install 13 turbines more at each of the Glenrock and Rolling Hills sites.

PacifiCorp will forward plans for the newest project to the state in the next two weeks, and the Department of Environmental Quality will determine if the changes will require additional public hearings.

In order to take advantage of a federal tax break that would save the company \$800,000 per turbine, PacifiCorp will have to have all turbines installed by the end of 2008, company executives said at an Industrial Siting Council hearing Tuesday in Glenrock.

"The federal production tax credit is the factor that is causing us to build this project now," said Mark Tomlin, PacifiCorp's vice president of renewable resource acquisition. "Absent that, I'm not sure we would."

With the planned addition of 26 turbines and a compressed construction schedule to accommodate the federal tax break expiration date, PacifiCorp is now estimating a peak workforce of 325 -- nearly double the 187-employee peak originally cited.

Construction will begin soon, officials said, and should peak in August. About 50 percent of the peak number of employees can be expected at the site in June and September.

The workforce will be housed entirely in Casper, according to company projections. Officials have secured housing agreements from Sunridge Apartments for 21 units; from the Shilo Inn for 40 rooms; and from Mainstay Suites and Sleep Inn for 100 units. Most of the rooms could house two workers as needed.